The Whole Truth

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

"The law of truth was in his mouth and iniquity was not found in his mouth, Mal. 2:6. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

VOLUME IX — X NO. XII — I MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE DECEMBER 1976-JANUARY-1977

DELEGATES TO CONVOCATION PLEDGE $451,000 TO "SAINTS CENTER" PROJECT

$451,000 PLEDGED TOWARD PROPOSED NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS by NATIONAL DELEGATION

More than $451,000 was pledged by Bishops, Pastors, State Mothers and other delegates to the 69th National Holy Convocation toward the Multi-Million dollar dream of the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ for a National Headquarters to be located in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. After many of the delegates heard and saw on screen the master plan for this future home for one of the largest black Pentecostal Denominations in America, Ministers and delegates from all over the auditorium began pledging two, three, and five thousand each to raise the largest sum ever to be raised at one setting in the History of the Church. When completed this proposed plan will probably satisfy most of the physical needs of the National Church for the next fifty years. "Saints Center" is only part of the far-reaching and all inclusive vision of Bishop Patterson and General Board. Some of the future plans for the church also include:

(1) A system whereby the General Secretary will be able to present in print a composite financial statement from the entire church at the close of the fiscal or calendar year.

(2) The creation of a financial commission to assist struggling pastors, trying to build edifices, by making subsidies and loans at low interest rate.

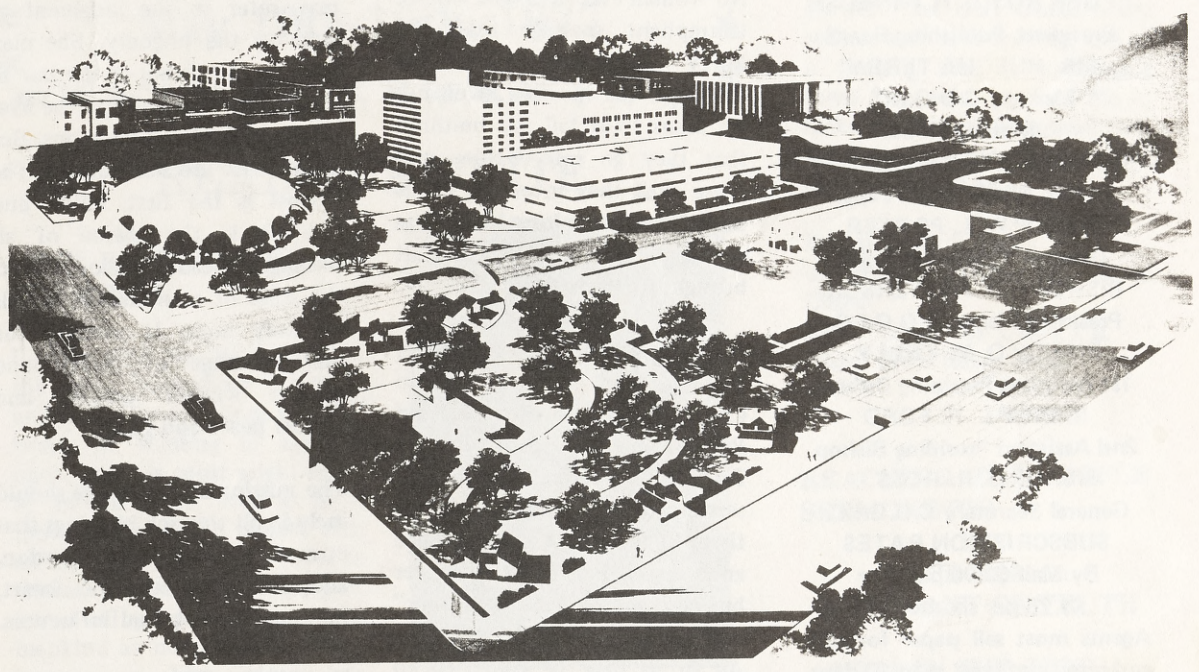
(3) A centralized budget where all departments of the church will be privileged to function, but would be allocated an amount of operational expense and the officers of those departments would be adequately compensated, and that all the proceeds would go into a central treasury and be allocated under the supervision of a Board for that purpose.

(4) The creation of a Commission on Ministerial Health and Welfare to care for retired, broken-down ministers and missionaries who have given their lives in the Church.

(5) A Commission to deal with rituals and Worship would be established to standarize the liturgical performances necessitated by weddings and funerals, etc. in a dignified manner.

(7) The creation of a master plan drawn for everything we propose for the next 100 years, or 50 years and that we build accordingly.

(8) A radio and television station with the call letters H-O-L-Y or C-O-G-I-C would be established to propagate the gospel to the world, thereby making annual use of our National Headquarters here in Memphis. The world needs us and we have what the world needs,



The Proposed Downtown Headquarters
Church of God in Christ, Inc.
272 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee
J. O. Patterson, Presiding Bishop

BISHOP O. M. KELLY APPOINTED FIRST ASSISTANT PRESIDING BISHOP

Bishop O. M. Kelly, or as he is more affectionately called by New Yorkers, Mr. Church of God in Christ was appointed on the final day of the 69th Holy Convocation to the second highest office in the Church of God in Christ. Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson who had just been re-elected to his third term in this office, appointed Bishop Kelly to succeed Bishop S. M. Crouch who passed earlier this year. The General Assembly seemed to be well pleased in this selection. The office in the past was held first by Bishop J. S. Bailey from 1968-1972, then by Bishop S. M. Crouch from 1972-1976. The major responsibility of the first assistant Presiding Bishop is to aid and assist the Presiding Bishop in discharging his Executive functions, and shall serve in their respective order if, for any reason, the Presiding Bishop does not serve, is unable to serve, until the position is filled by the General Assembly at one of its regular or special sessions.

Without a doubt Bishop O. M. Kelly is one of the oldest Jurisdictional Bishop living today. Many consider him to be one of the pioneers of the Church. His long and close relationship with Bishop Mason has made him one of the great churchman of this century. He was one of the first to be appointed to the board of commissioners in the early 50's. This was a group of Bishops selected by Bishop Mason to assist him with the leadership of the church during his declining years. He later served on the Executive Board of the Church of God In Christ during the early 60's. Bishop Kelly summarizes 60 years in the ministry in the following way.



BISHOP OTHA M. KELLY

"As I look back retrospectively, I have so many reasons to thank God. The Lord saved me in my youth. And he has steadily blessed me, in spite of my unworthiness. He look beyond my faults, and saw my need. I ascribe my success as a Minister of the Gospel, the ability to build the leadership as a Pastor, and State Overseer, my promotion to the Apostleship, and above all, my Salvation to God's great love for me. He anointed me to preach the Gospel, and he allowed me to build the State with His divine help, from 16 missions to about 160 churches and missions. I am blessed to have built 3 churches here in this state. One in New York City where I am pastoring, one in Freeport, La. where my son, Elder Frank White is pastoring, and am completing one in White Plains, N.Y. where

Continued on Page 8

BISHOPS CHANDLER OWENS AND LEROY ANDERSON FILLS VACANCIES ON GENERAL BOARD

Bishop's Leroy Anderson and C. D. Owens were elected by the National General Assembly to fill the two vacancies on the General Board created through the demise of Bishop Wells and Bishop S. M. Crouch.

Bishop C. D. Owens was elected to the 11th position on the General Board with 744 votes and Bishop Leroy Anderson was elected to the 12th position with 690 votes.

Also elected to the General

Continued on Page 8



BISHOP C. OWENS



BISHOP L. ANDERSON

FOUR NATIONAL OFFICIALS PASS IN TWELVE MONTHS

The Church of God in Christ has experienced what could possibly be a record breaking Death toll of National officials of the Church of God in Christ to die within the past 12 months. It has been very unusual in the church history for so many International church officers to pass so close together.

The first to pass was MOTHER ANNE L. BAILEY, International Supervisor of Women Work and President of National Women's Convention, in December 1975. The second to depart this earthly life was BISHOP C. H. BREWER, Chairman of the National Board of Trustee's, in March 1976. The third to pass was MOTHER CORA BERRY, Assistant State Mother of Southern Calif. and

Continued on Page 3

THE WHOLE TRUTH

A monthly periodical, published by the Church of God in Christ, for the purpose of spreading the Whole Gospel Truth.

Published Monthly By: The Church of God in Christ Publishing House, 272 South Main Street, P. O. Box 2017, Memphis, Tennessee 38101

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GUEST EDITORIAL

DO WOMEN HAVE A MESSAGE?

by
Flora Blanchard

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

THE MISSIONARY'S MESSAGE

No woman ever delivered a more triumphant message than did Mary Magdalene when she delivered the message given her by Jesus "Go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee and there shall they meet me." This message was not long but it was strong and emphatic and it brought forth results.

It is wonderful to be a messenger for God and to be blessed to expound His word as did Priscilla in Acts 18:26. Paul in Roman 16:3 refers to Phebe as a servant of the church and told them to receive "her in the Lord and assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you."

All of us may be called to do mission work but not all of us have the gift of teaching because gifts differ according to the grace that is given to us. The missionary's message that comes by divine revelation may be based on something that has been studied, read, seen, heard or experienced, but there is a quickening by the Holy Spirit and a saturating of the anointing of God and when it is brought forth is penetrating and powerful. It is a message that is given to a chosen person. It is a message that is given by God. Of what does the message consist? It is a message of hope and joy. It is a message of deliverance and love. It is a message of mercy and grace. It is a message of forgiveness and redemption. It is a message of the Gospel of the Son of God.

Does the missionary teach anything else? She may refer to man's primitive state. She may refer to the entrance of sin. She may refer to the judgment of God on the ungodly. She may refer to the giving of the law to Moses. She may refer to the lives of the wicked and the pious. But all of these are subordinate. The Gospel is the first, chief, and last. It is the theme of all messages because it alone meets the state of mankind. It reveals his only hope. It contains the only message of mercy and makes known present and eternal peace and glory.

The missionary's message should include all the rich blessings that come through Jesus-pardon, adoption, newness of heart, holiness and spiritual influences.

The missionary's message should reach the sinner. For it is the missionary's job to help prepare the way of the Lord. The missionary should be faithful yet tender, solemn yet meek, inflexible yet kind.

The missionary's message should be for all classes-the old and the young, the rich and the poor, the healthy and the sick and the

black and the white.

The missionary is stirred to teach the Gospel. It is the love of Christ that constraineth her and from within there is a compassion that makes her cry out, "Oh that the world might know the riches of His grace!"

The missionary has a responsibility. She has nothing of which to boast. She has nothing of which to glory. She is only an instrument that is used by God. Her message, her ability, her understanding and wisdom, her voice and method of deliverance, and her endurance are all from God. The glory is the Lord's.

The success of the message also comes from God. For it is He who convinceth, healeth, comforts, delivers, preserves, redeems and glorifies. No spiritual victory can be achieved without Him, for the weapons of her warfare are not carnal. Whatever is accomplished through her is not by her might or power for she is a worker together with Him.

"Carry your message with you and be ready to give it to anyone that you meet", said Mother Dabney, "whenever the opportunity presents itself." Just be wise."

Don't bemoan the fact that your gift is not like others.

Don't bury your talent in the ground, For it was given by God just like your brother's.

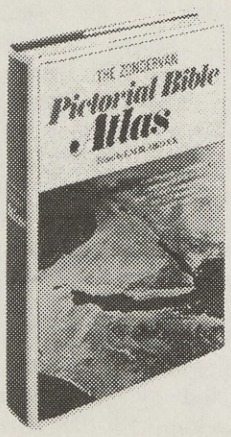
Work in love that it may grow and abound. God shall soon call you in question To give an account of your talent although but one.

If you've been faithful over a few things; don't worry about the many.

For He shall say, "My Child, well done!"

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ANSWERS
TO
YOUR QUESTIONS
by
J. O. Patterson
Presiding Bishop
Church of God in Christ

Dear Bishop Patterson:

Holy greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. First of all I would like to congratulate you on your re-election. You have my prayers.

I was impressed with the plans for the Saints Center and Headquarters remodeling project.

I would like to have some information concerning the tithing system. I thought I had a clear understanding until I arrived home from Memphis and consulted my Jurisdictional Bishop. I was informed by him that all pastors were to tithe their Jurisdictional Bishop who in turn sends only 10% of these tithes to National Headquarters. If this is so, the National Work would only be getting the crumbs and the Jurisdictional Bishops would be getting the greater increase. Please don't feel that I am opposed to bishops prospering, but I don't feel that the bishops are the ones in need. It's the National Church. In regards to this question, is it possible for local pastors to tithe directly to the National Church? As soon as I get the good understanding I will wholeheartedly support the work of God.

A Pastor

Dear Pastor:

I agree 100% with your letter concerning tithing. It is true that the National Church will only get the crumbs if the tithes are collected in the Jurisdiction, and only 10% of them sent to Headquarters. That is not the system. The system is ALL MEMBERS TITHE THE LOCAL CHURCH AND ALL BISHOPS, PASTORS AND STATE SUPERVISORS TITHE DIRECTLY TO THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS THROUGH THE JURISDICTIONAL BISHOP. THE JURISDICTIONAL BISHOP IS TO LIST EVERY TITHER FROM HIS JURISDICTION GIVING NAME, ADDRESS AND AMOUNT ON A FORM FURNISHED HIM BY THE NATIONAL CHURCH. THE NATIONAL TITHING SECRETARY WILL, FROM THAT FORM, MAIL RECEIPTS DIRECTLY TO THE TITHERS. If this system is not practiced in the Jurisdiction, a Pastor is justified in sending his tithes directly to Headquarters.

If we are ever going to be able to help our struggling pastors, operate our Educational Institutions, Mission Department, build our world wide Saints Center in Memphis for the spreading of the gospel, more of the Lord's money will have to be invested in HIS business, and less in our pockets. The laborer is worthy of his hire, but he doesn't deserve all of it.

J. O. Patterson
Presiding Bishop
Church of God in Christ, Inc.

DEATH NOTICES AND MEMORIALS

Continued From Page One

FOUR OFFICIALS PASS

National Director of Religious Workshops in June 1976. Fourth to pass was BISHOP S. M. CROUCH, 1st Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ in August 1976. Also Mother FANNIE BECK former State Mother of Mississippi also passed during the year of 1976.

The Church of God In Christ world wide greatly feels the lost of so many great and faithful servants of the cross. Their contribution to the Christian Ministry while they lived shall never be forgotten.

Mrs. Annie L. Bailey. was born September 22, 1894, in Temple, Texas. Her parents were Rev. & Mrs. Felix Garrett. She was converted at the age of 12 years and embraced the Baptist faith.

She was appointed State Supervisor of the State of Maryland in 1927 and in 1928 Delaware and Washington, D.C. were added. In 1929 she had to leave her work owing to the illness of our late Senior Bishop C. H. Mason, and traveled the entire year until May of 1930, when she returned to her field of labor.

She also served as the First Financial Secretary of the State of New Jersey. This office she held until the death of the late L. M. Cox, whom she succeeded. She was also the first National Women's Financial Secretary appointed by the late Mother Lizzie Robinson.

In 1964 she was appointed International Supervisor of Women of the Church of God in Christ Inc., which she served faithfully until her departure.

In February, 1934, she was united in holy matrimony to Elder John Seth Bailey.

She was the mother of one daughter who preceded her in death.

She leaves to mourn her a devoted husband, 5 sisters, 4 grandchildren, nieces and nephews and a host of relatives and friends.

The Reverend Brewer was born at Hurley, Mississippi, son of the late Charles Harrison Brewer and Rose Mitchell Brewer, and began his pastorial duties in 1925 in Newark, New Jersey. He was appointed pastor of the Trinity Temple Church of God In Christ in New Haven in 1946, after pastorial service in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1948 he was appointed State Bishop by the Presiding Bishop of the National Church of God in Christ, the late Charles Harrison Mason.

Since 1948, he was a member of the National Board of Bishops and the Chairman of the National Board of Trustees. In 1965, under Reverend Brewer's leadership, a new Trinity Temple Church of God in Christ was erected at the corner of Dixwell Avenue and Henry Street in New Haven.

Reverend Brewer was a past President of the Dixwell Avenue Ministerial Alliance, a board member of the New Haven Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; a director of the Dixwell Housing Corp, and Opportunities Industrialization Center, and a board member of the C. H. Mason Scholarship Fund of Memphis, Tenn. He also served as a special adviser to the former mayor of New Haven, Richard C. Lee.

On July 30, 1903 in Rogerville, Tenn. a baby girl was born to Mr. & Mrs. Meguson. They named this child Cora Agnes. Cora grew up in Rogerville where she attended public school, ever learning toward a better way of life spiritually and financially.

In 1951 this family came to Los Angeles, Calif. at the invitation and influence of Bishop S. M. Crouch. Mother Berry placed her membership at the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, pastored by Bishop Crouch. She soon became the Assistant Supervisor of Southern California Jurisdiction No. 1, serving with State Supervisor Mother L. A. Hale. She was Dean of Emmanuel Bible Institute. Taught in the Los Angeles Public School System for eight years. She was District Missionary of the Emmanuel District.

Mother Berry worked in almost every capacity of the church. She was active in the National work, ranked highly in religious, Educational and Civic Activities. She gave unrelentingly of her time and talent. The word"no" never seemed to have been in her vocabulary. She either said, I will do it or I will try. Her favorite scripture was Psalm 118:24, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." Mother Berry has been cited for many outstanding accomplishments and achievements. Among these was an Honorary Doctor's Degree that was conferred upon her by Dr. Arenia C. Mallory, Saints College, Lexington, Mississippi on December 8, 1973.

Mother Berry lived for God and pointed the way of Christ to

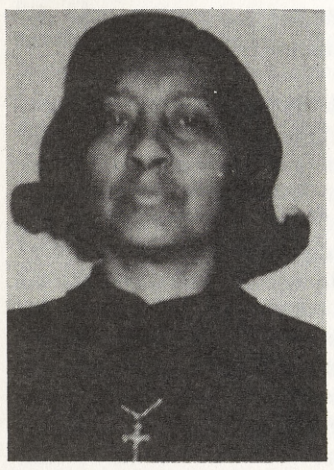
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL CALL MEETING
Memphis, Tennessee
April 19th-21st, 1977

WOMEN'S CONVENTION
Miami Beach, Florida
May 10th-15th, 1977

READER'S WRITE



"THE PREPARATION OF THE BRIDE"

I praise God for the moving of the Spirit throughout the land; and I am concern about my own heart, in wanting to keep it open, that his spirit might move in me the more, even as he is moving in others. I believe with all my heart that we are living in the last days; and the Holy Spirit are being poured out on mankind as never before. Many people in high places are humbling themselves enough to let Christ come into their life. Then there are those who are in the prisons throughout the country who are receiving salvation. Elder John I. Davis preached in the penal institutions for a number of years, and he would always give us the report on how the Lord was saving the souls of men even in the penal institutions.

Recently I received a report concerning how the Lord is saving many of the world's entertainers, and they are going back into the places where they once entertained only to give their testimonies; at least one case, I heard that twenty souls were saved after one of such testimonies was given in a night club. I am sure that if the Lord saved them in the night club, he brought them out to a richer and fuller life, and added them to his church. The person who had went in and testified, was one who had once entertained in that very place, Christ came into their life and gave them a ministry to go back into these places ONLY to give their testimony, that some other lost soul might find their way home.

The Holy Spirit is completing his last minute's work; getting Christ's Bride (the church) ready for that most precious hour; "The grand wedding march he is adding to his church (his bride) that her beauty might be complete, when he comes to take her hand in marriage. For each bride there are some last minute's details that must be taken care of before the actual wedding can take place. When we think of weddings, let us not think on the little common everyday weddings, nor should we consider one of those where the vows are made before the justice of the peace; this kind of wedding can be as effective naturally so, as any of the big beautiful and colorful ones, but it is not typical to that great marriage, "Christ and his church" this wedding march that will take place somewhere in the mid air, will be a Royal wedding. It will be the King of Kings who takes a bride. We have heard about some of the noted Royal weddings, but I doubt if many of us have attended such a wedding: Since the names on the invitation list are so very well selected, bearing only the names of the aristocrat and the celebrities. Only those who are professionals takes care of the business for the royal weddings; such persons who are authorities on whatsoever the matter is that they are suppose to take care of; from the preparing of the list to the dressing of the bride.

Space does not allow me to comment on all the many steps that must be taken before the actual wedding can take place, but there are some very important steps that MUST be taken care of before the royal can take place. The bride must be well guarded, so... a place for the wedding must be very carefully selected. Who will be the honored guests? The bride's attire are so very important; much time and effort goes into selecting the complete attire from head to feet; when the day of the great event do come, she is vehemently dressed: from this point on all eyes wait to catch the first sight of the bride, to behold her beauty, while the Groom wait for the time when all formalities are over, that he might take her unto himself, to the place which he has reserved for the honeymoon, which will only be the beginning of the fulfillment of their dreams.

Christ came to this earth almost two thousand years ago and set up his church, which is the bride of Christ. He knew that he would have to go away, but he made provision for her well being. He established her upon a rock, and no one can take her away from him; read St. Matthew 16:18. He gave the Holy Spirit to be her guide, that she will be ready in her pure white on time.....The Holy Ghost is the one who is an authority on all matters. It takes a certain number of blood washed soul to make the bride complete. The Holy Spirit are moving fast into the hearts of the people, and by the Holy Spirit, these people are that one great church, who shall stand against the storms and the floods, and no one shall be able to pluck her out of his hands. She is waiting for the return of her Lord, (the Bride's Groom) and nothing shall stop her growth. The Holy Ghost is the seeker, and he is seeking, and he is finding, and he is bringing them from every walk of life to make up that number, and then the Lord shall return, according to I Cor. 15:52-54.

By Sis. Rosie L. Davis
of Israelite Church of God in Christ
3195 "L" St. San Diego, Cal.
Pastor Elder Harvy Jessie

REACHING THE PEOPLE SERMONETTS
by
Phyllis Jackson
A SERVANT OF TRUTH

HELP IN THE STORM

Did it actually happen? Was there truly a great storm at sea? Did the wind and the raging of the water obey the voice of a man called Jesus? Infallibly it did happen, and the winds did obey his voice.

St. Luke 8:22, 23, 24, 25. "And it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples. And he said unto them, 'Let us go over unto the other side of the lake,' and they launched forth."

But as they sailed he fell asleep, and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were fill with water, and were in jeopardy.

And they came to him and awoke him saying, "Master, Master, we perish," Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water, and they ceased, and there was a calm.

And he said unto them, "Where is your faith?" And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, "What manner of man is this! For he commandeth even the winds and waters, and they obey him."

What do we have here? It is so satisfying to know that this two letter pronoun (us) was used here. It is necessary that every Christian leader should notice this. Jesus says, "Let us go," you go and I will go also, yet not merely also, but I will go with you; I will accompany you. In the case of disappointment, I will be there. In the case of disaster, I will be with you. In the case of peril, I will be on the ship. In case of a storm, even the wind will obey me, matters not how gusty it may be Oh, praise God!

Right in the midst of disaster, while being shaken and roughed about by Satan, who is the

Continued on Page 8

THE TITHING SYSTEM: IT'S ORIGIN AND FUNCTION

by
Marthin Luther Johnson
Conclusion

The body of this article has been given to discussion the origin and development of the tithing system in history, and to biblical foundations for tithe-paying. But I do not feel that tithe-paying is a real problem for the average member of the C.O.G.I.C. If it were, we would not have our fine churches, schools, and would not be able to support missionary work abroad. The real problem seems to be centered around the proper usage of the tithes after they have been taken. The poor lay person is the source of all our tithes, as the eleven tribes were the source of Israel's tithes, and they are asking the question: do the Pastors suppose to take all of the tithes of the local Church? The answer to that question is situational and is to be dealt with by each local church. If the total weekly tithes amount to $50.00, there would not be much of a situation to deal with. But if the tithes amounted to a figure of $500.00, $800.00 or $1,00.00 per week, it is not wise for the Pastor to take all the tithes. These figures are random figures, but it seems to me that the Pastor's salary should not be any less than the average income of the church members. The only loophole we Pastors have is that the average small church does not raise enough tithes to support a Pastor, but there are many churches that do.

Tithes functioned in numerous ways in Old Testament times. The tithes that had been paid to the Priests by the Levites were used in the Jerusalem Temple for the benefit of the Priests (Lev. 27: 32F; Neh. 10:36); the high Priest (Num. 18:26-28); and by the time of the writing of Deuteronomy the Levites shared in them (Deuteronomy 18:1-3).

In a period of religious revival, King Hezekiah commanded payment of tithes, and had chambers built in the Temple precincts to store them. (II Chron. 31:4-12). In New Testament times tithing was the orthodox procedure among the Pharisees (Luke 18:12).

It is crystal clear that tithing is of divine origin and is the only plan God has ordained for the total financing of His church all over the world. If that was the plan given by God to the race of antiquity, by what authority do we change it? No minister or Church official need hesitate to present God's plan to the Church. We have two choices: God's plan and our plan. If we think that we are smarter than God, then we use our plan, but if we know that God's plan is better, then let's stick to His plan. (Mal. 3:10c).

I feel sure that our Church is the greatest Church in the world and, there is no reason that we should not take our rightful place by being the head and not the tail in Church extension, world evangelism, education, hospital, insurance, and superannuation. It seems to me that tithing is the answer and ever other man-made attempt is futile.

ASSIST HIS PASTOR

Let us notice the example set forth in the word of God, as evidence in the life, and ministry of two of the greatest leaders in the Old Testament History, I refer to: Moses and Joshua. Notice! Ex. 17:8-12. "Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. And Moses said unto Joshua, choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek; and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the Hill. And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses hands were heavy, and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side; and the other on the other side; and His hands were steady until the going down of the sun." This beautiful example was set forth before us to let us know that the leaders of God need the cooperation of all the brethern in order to do a proper job for the Lord.

Continued on Page 8

WHAT MAKES CHURCHES GROW?

by
C. Peter Wagner

C. Peter Wagner explores the seven common denominators he has found almost without exception in growing evangelical churches.

What makes conservative, evangelical churches grow?

There are almost as many answers to that question as there are burgeoning churches. Many conservative pastors directly involved in exciting church growth see some of the trees clearly, but they tend to miss the forest.

W. A. Criswell, for example, credits expository preaching as the major factor in his church's growth to 18,000 members. But Robert Schuller, whose church has now passed 6,500 rarely preaches expository messages but is extremely effective in communicating "possibility thinking" through topical preaching.

James Kennedy singles out houst-to-house visitation as the most effective means for growth in Florida, but Stephen Olford tried it in New York City to no avail. When a pastor there, he depended more on penetrating the high-rises through television.

No one approach always works.

Richard Halverson finds that developing small koinonia groups is his best approach, and Ray Stedman attributes growth to "body life" Wendell Belew, however, once told me of two churches that "died of koinonia!"

Then Jack Hyles argues that building his Sunday school through 130 bus routes helps his church to grow, but Ray Ortlund's church sold its last Sunday school bus three years ago and has been growing faster ever since.

With so many different approaches it is no wonder that as I speak and write on this subject concerned pastors and laymen still come and ask me a fairly standard question: "Our church has not been growing, but we want it to. What can we do to make it grow?"

In most cases the asking of the question is the crucial part of the answer; in other words, the indispensable condition for a growing church is that it must want to grow.

Don't pass this over lightly even though it sounds simple. Thousands of churches are not growing because they don't really want to grow! Growth can be a threat to insecure Christian leaders who feel they already have all they can handle. Some Christians admit that they prefer

Continued on Page 5

SEED THOUGHTS FOR FUTURE PASTORS AND ELDERS

by
Supt. C. Guydon

N. E. ARKANSAS 1ST JURISDICTION BISHOP L. T. WALKER STATE BISHOP

PART I

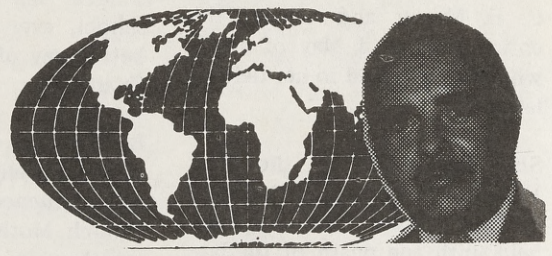
I humbly offer for consideration by future Pastors and Elders, a few thoughts that I hope will stimulate you into an active search for ways to excell, and dignify your ministry. A minister of Christ must be prepared to minister other places other than his local church. If I may become personal, I have a been called upon to perform many weddings at the County Court House in my home town, I have been called upon to eulogize many non-church members, including small children. I have preached at several different denominational churches, as well as appeared in school commencement exercises. You maybe called upon to do anything from praying at an atheletic event, to dedicating a home-I have.

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to Timothy, II Tim. 2:15, "Study to show thy self approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Those instructions are very much needed today in a rapidly changing society. A Pastor now is called upon to preach to school teachers, high school and college graduates, city and state officials of the government.

The Lord have blessed me to minister by radio for a little more than a year now continuously, and as a result, we have people of other races attending our worship services. People are seeking information now-a-days, and the well-informed minister is a valuable asset in his community that is certainly in demand.

The official CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST MANUAL contain some very good advice to ministers. I am going to quote from that book an excerpt from page 144, the second paragraph. "The local minister should be personally convinced of his call to the ministry before being granted a license. He should be able to convince others that God called him to preach, possess a holy conversation (life), sound understanding of the things of God, and have a good report of those within and without. He must be willing to study to show himself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the truth." He should be one that has served faithfully in attendance, tithing and offering and obedience to his pastor for at least a year before being granted a license. He should:

the whole world



By Bishop R. L. Fidler

THE INTERNATIONAL MISSIONARY ACADEMY IS EXPANDING ITS CAMPUSES IN CALIFORNIA'

The International Missionary Academy has had to extend its bases to include another campus, because the facilities at our Church of God in Christ Mission Retreat at Lake Elsinore, California, are not large enough for the number of students enrolled. The entire student body has been in the San Diego area on a field trip establishing this new base. Meanwhile, taxes and repairs to the buildings at Lake Elsinore present a need for some $1000. Another $5000 plus would pay off completely this property which has been purchased for Church of God in Christ missionary purposes. What you give for Christ through such causes will surely leave landmarks in eternity.

ANGOLA BISHOP AND SAINTS HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO A REFUGEE CAMP IN ZAMBIA

Bishop Paulinu Lutongo Mununga and some 200 saints of the Church of God in Christ of Angola in Africa have need of your prayers and support. Destitute of food, money and clothing, the Angola saints are residing in a refugee camp at Maheba, Zambia. The camp contains some 24,000 persons from Angola, and it is not certain at this point just when the group can be repatriated in their country. Correspondence has come in Portuguese and in English from Bishop Mununga, as well as other mention of their plight by our ministers in Zambia and Zaire.

REVAMOS NYEMA HAS RETURNED TO LIBERIA TO SERVE THE CHURCH THERE AFTER NINE YEARS OF STUDY IN THE U. S.

Rev. Amos Nyema, who hails from the Monalu Mission Station in Liberia, has returned to his native land after a number of years of study in the United States. Spending most of his last several years in Philadelphia, he has studied in a number of universities and seminaries preparing himself for his return to Liberia.

Meanwhile, Rev. Abraham Brown, who has served as Superintendent in the Cape Palmas area of Liberia since his training in the U. S., has asked for a furlough from his mission responsibilities in seeing after the mission stations left by our missionaries at Monalu, Tugbakeh and Wissekeh, where he has served without pay, trying to fill the shoes of our returned missionaries.

It is most urgently necessary to find those who will help to underwrite some support for Liberia. It was agreed in the Mission Board during the convocation that we should try to get at least $500 per month pledged from interested individuals and pastors to meet the supervisory needs of our work in the southern area of Liberia where our missionaries had labored so many years.

If you can take up some of this need, please contact the Missions office and make your pledge committment. We would like to put some support behind Bro. Nyema, and perhaps others who are shouldering a great responsibility there.

MISSIONARY JOSEPHINE DUNCAN WAS A DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER AT THE SERVICEMEN'S SPAIN—MOROCCO WOMEN'S RETREAT

Church of God in Christ

Continued on Page 5

Continued From Page 4

WHAT MAKES CHURCHES GROW?

small churches and therefore would feel uncomfortable if their church started getting bigger. Some say they want to grow but are unwilling to pay the price, exactly like an overweight person who is always going to start to exercise and go on a diet but never seems to get around to it.

In my opinion, such a person doesn't really want to lose weight in spite of all his talk. The same applies to many pious-talking evangelical churches. They don't really want to grow.

Beyond this first basic prerequisite, however, the situation (as we have already seen) is complex. But although the pattern is complex, it is not chaotic. My purpose in this article is to bring some order into the picture by suggesting seven common denominators of growth. As I have studied American church growth, I have found that almost without exception, in some way or other, the churches which are growing well are scoring about average on each one of the seven points.

Pastor heads the list.

1. The Pastor. I would personally rather believe differently, but I cannot escape the mounting evidence that the pastor heads the list of factors common to growing churches in America. Show me a rapidly-growing church, and I will show you a dynamic leader whom God is using to make it happen.

By naming the pastor as a vital factor for church growth, I do not for a moment mean to imply that he is the one who does all the work. In fact, that would really be a contradiction. The only pastors who can possibly do all the work are pastors of small churches. The bigger the church gets, the less a share of the total work the pastor himself can assume.

No, the most important contribution the pastor can make to a growing church is to set the style. The pastor must create the mood for growth. Robert Schuller is thoroughly convinced on scriptural, psychological, sociological and pragmatic grounds that a pastor who is a "possibility thinker" will be able to lead his church into effective church growth. I have heard people snicker at this idea, but I have discovered no growing church in America led by an "impossibility thinker."

A possibility thinker, as I analyze it, really turns out to be a person with what the Bible calls the "gift of faith" (I Cor. 12:9). Obviously, not all members of the body of Christ have the gift of faith. Everybody can't be a Schuller just by deciding to think positively. But if you want your church to grow, ask God to do one of two things; 1) awaken possibility thinking or a greater measure of the gift of faith in the heart of your pastor or 2) provide a pastor who has the gift of faith and uses it.

2. A Well-Mobilized Laity. Every one of the growing churches in America that I know of has developed a system to involve the laity of the church in its total ministry.

The biblical principle behind this has been clearly articulated by Ray Stedman of the Peninsula Bible Church of Palo Alto, Calif., in his book, Body Life (Regal). Every believer, says Stedman, possesses one or more spiritual gifts, and a chief responsibility of the pastor and the staff is to help each member of the church discover what his gift is and then give him the opportunities and encouragement to develop and use the gift for the benefit of the body.

Different sytles of bringing this about are appropriate for different churches. Some, like Jack Hyles, accomplish it by exerting a strong and authoritative leadership from the top of all departments. His people respond magnificently. Six hundred Sunday school teachers attend a weekly training class. Hundreds of volunteers man bus routes every Sunday, then follow up with visits in their areas during the week. Between 1,800 and 2,000 are trained soul-winners and actively use their gifts. The deacon board includes 101 men. Little wonder they now are forced to expand the 2,500-seat auditorium into one with 6,000 seats.

But Hyles' parishioners are factory workers, accustomed to taking orders and carrying them out. One could hardly imagine the same kind of leadership mobilizing the laity of a church like the Bel Air Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles where Donn Momaw takes a much lower-key approach with his congregation of professionals, business executives and theater personalities. But whatever style it uses, a growing church must have a mobilized laity.

My research over the past few years has made me very much disturbed with the term "Total mobilization" as defined in some circles, and I would like to warn against it. Some have been advocating that the way to help a church to grow is to mobilize 100% of the members for active, evangelistic work.

This kind of "total mobilization" is unbiblical since just as the whole body cannot be an eye (I Cor. 12:17), every member cannot have the gift of evangelist (Eph. 4:11). Every believer is a witness all right, but every one is not an evangelist. When Jesus left the earth. He left about 120 members of the First Church of Jerusalem. Of them, however, He had trained 12, 10% as those particularly responsible for spreading the Gospel in active evangelistic work.

If all Christians would find and use what gifts they do have, this would release a power for church growth that might well do more to bring this nation to Christ than anything we have seen since the Great Awakening.

3. A Large Enough Church. My own church has 2,800 members. When I mention this, I often get the response, "Oh, that's too big." But then I ask, "Too big for what?" and the answer to that one is hard to come by

(Continued Next Issue)

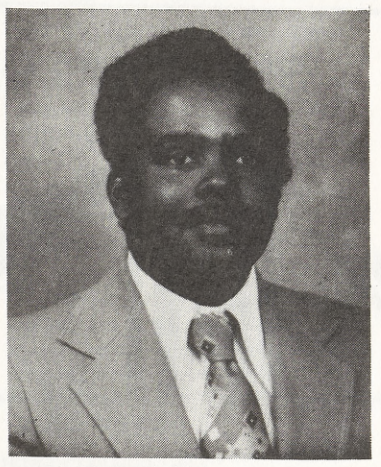
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OKLAHOMA BIBLE COLLEGE DIRECTOR RECEIVES ORDINATION, PH. D. AND NEW APPOINTMENT

Dr. Malcolm Coby, Area Director for the Charles Harrison Mason System of Bible Colleges for the state of Oklahoma, recently received a triple blessing. First, after four years as a licensed minister, he passed the State Ordination Board and was ordained as an Elder by Bishop W. E. Jefferies of S. E. Oklahoma. Secondly, on May 8, 1976, he received his Ph.D. in Special Education degree from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma. His dissertation topic was: "Manifest Anxiety and the Apperceptive Responses of Learning Disabled and Normal Elementary Students Toward Educational Situations".

The third blessing came when Dr. Coby was selected from a number of applicants as Assistant Professor of Special Education at Central State University, the third largest university in Oklahoma. Central State is also one of the leading universities in the nation in the field of special education. He has resigned his position as Instructor of Education at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in Chickash, Oklahoma to accept the Central State post. His duties will begin there in the Fall of 1976.

Dr. Coby received the Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Education degrees from Central State University in 1968 and 1970, respectively. While a student at Central State, he was listed on the Dean's and President's Honor Rolls, majoring in Special Education. As a senior he received a federal grant for study in mental retardation. In 1968, he received a traineeship from the State



DR. MALCOLM COBY

Department of Special Education for study in learning disabilities. He took a year's leave of absence from Okla. City Public Schools in 1969 to accept a full fellowship to obtain his master's degree, and graduated with a 3. 8 grade average (on a 4.0 scale). Last year (1975) he was selected as one of the first recipients of a $5,000 Minority Fellowship for Doctoral Study from the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. When he received his Ph.D., he became the very first of those recipients to graduate. He is now returning to his alma mater to teach graduate and undergraduate courses in learning disabilities and general special education. He will also be responsible for advising students and supervising student teachers in his area.

Dr. and Mrs. Coby reside in Oklahoma City and have three children--Lisa (9), Malcolm Jr. (7), and Maria (4). Sister Coby is a Fall candidate for her Master's degree in Special Education and teaches in Oklahoma City. They are active members of the Sixth and Jordan Church of God in Christ, Bishop W. E. Jefferies, D. D., pastor (Bishop Jefferies is also President of the C. H. Mason System of Bible Colleges in Okla.). Sis. Coby serves as local Sunday School Representative, Y.P.W.W. and Bible College teacher. Dr. Coby is local minister for the Jr. church, Sunday School Teacher, Y.P.W.W. Pres. of Okla. City District, as well as director for the Bible College.

Dr. Coby is a living example to young and old that education does not subtract from salvation. He praises God for guiding him through the difficult years of study, and advocates that if we will live "Holy" and remain faithful, God will not withhold any good thing from us.

Continued From Page 4

THE WHOLE WORLD by Bishop R. L. Fidler

servicemen and their wives are playing an active role in Christian circles throughout the world. SMS Robert Duncan and his wife have been stationed in Spain for some time now. Formerly they worked in the Orient with Bishop Archie Buchanan. From the work in Spain through the efforts of a number of our other servicemen, a number of Nigerian students have been helped in their studies, some of whom are now in the United States.

REV. J. ALTON THOMPSON IS TO PASTOR CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST WORK IN BERMUDA.

Since the death of the late Bishop J. J. Patrick, and more recently his widow, the work in Bermuda has been facing a number of problems. With the help and inspiration of Mother Anna Crockett Ford and Rev. W. W. Covington the few saints there have received a great deal of encouragement. Now Rev. J. Alton Thompson, a relative of the late Bishop Patrick is to take up the work at Bethel Church of God in Christ.

Rev. Thompson says: "People in the community have expressed their appreciation for the reopening of the doors of Bethel. During the summer we had the privilege of baptizing four persons in the ocean. Three were already members of Bethel, and one was a recent convert who is still with us.

"Presently, we are preparing for a crusade with Evangelist Eddie F. Southerland of Philadelphia, Pa. He is a credential holder with the Church of God in Christ. He was recommended to me by some ministers in Canada some three years ago. We used him in an island-wide crusade two years ago and he was a great blessing. He will be with me from January 23rd until February 4th, 1977. The 'Evangeletts' of Washington, D. C. will be coming with him. Pray that these efforts will give our work a greater thrust for '77.

"It would be my pleasure to meet with...the officials of this great fellowship. We have the highest admiration for Mother Anna Ford. We were most impressed with the ministry of Elder Ralph Groce of Pittsburgh, Pa. Accept greetings from the family of Bethel in Bermuda.

(Signed) J. Alton Thompson

MAKE THAT CHANGE!

USE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST S U N D AY SCHOOL & Y. P. W.W. LITERATURE.

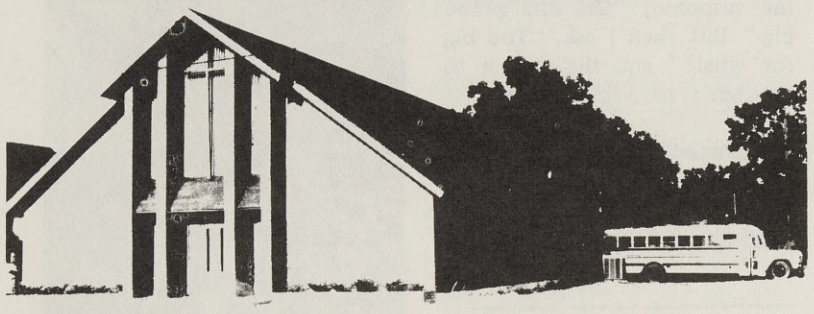
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SPEAKING OF CHURCHES



WEST DUMAS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

The history of West Dumas Church is indeed a remarkable one. Under the guidance of God, through the leadership of Dr. A. L. Hunt the church has grown from fourteen (14) members to an enrollment of over 500 in Sunday School.



THE REVEREND DR. A. L. HUNT
M.BS., D.D., TH.D.

We have moved from a small, delapidated frame building to a beautiful and spacious church which was dedicated March, 1976, which has central heating and air, cushioned pews, and a seating capacity of 550, and is mortgage free.

We are presently using the old church building for the educational wing. Plans are already underway to construct a new educational wing.

Since the dedication of our new church many souls have been added to the church.

TO BE USED OF GOD
by
Michael Robertson

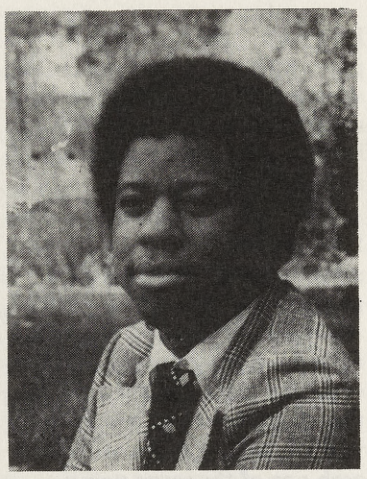
Those youth in the Church who have not been called to the ministry of preaching should not be discouraged. "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps governments and diversities of tongues" I Corinthians 12:28. All to often we as Saints overlook the tiny five letter word "helps". We can aid in the upbuilding of the Kingdom of God by utilizing these "helps". We can help through the ministry of our singing; or the ministry of testifying or using our artistic talents whether they be drawing or printing or writing. Then we can all "help" the upbuilding of the Kingdom of Christ through giving tithes. Even the ministry of kindness through a friendly word or a smile can reach people when the story of Hezikiah might escape their individual need entirely. The key to being useful to Christ is to "stir up the gift of God which is within thee..." (II Timothy 1:16) and not to mimic the talent of another.

We who wish to be doers of the word should remember that it is God who gives many talents to be used in the upbuilding of His kingdom. The talents may be as diverse as the eye is to the arm, or the ear to the leg yet a working combination of the variables allow the body to function. Likewise preaching, teaching, singing, etc. aid in the upbuilding of the Kingdom of Christ. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many are one body, so also is Christ." None of the talents God gives are unimportant or should be put away.

There are no doubt many mothers who have looked at their young sons and thought what a good President, he would be. Some parents even predict he's going to be a doctor or a judge or a lawyer. It is good for us to want respect for our children and to demand not less than the very best for them. Yet, we in our exurberance or care often overpush them. If ever there was an example it is calling our children to the ministry instead of letting God call them. When the Bible has asked, "How can the people hear without a preacher and how can they preach unless they be sent" Roman 10:14-15. In some of our minds because of the homage to the title of Reverend we push those bretheren for whom we have a great deal of respect or love into the channels to become preachers. We nurture him, prep him, and train him up to be a pastor.

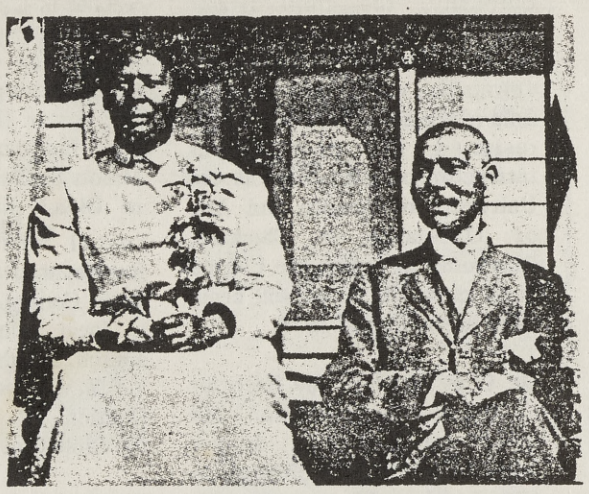
Unfortunately he is trained to be more ambitious than prayerful

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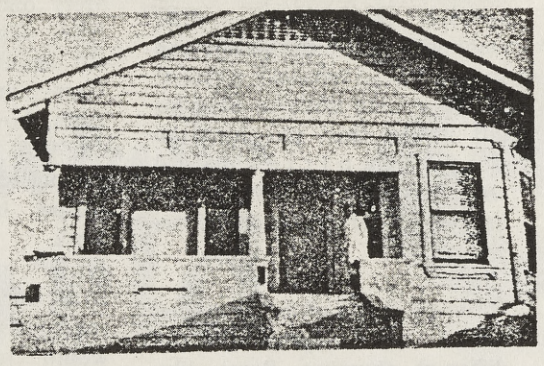


Michael Roberson

OUR CHURCH HISTORY



Ruth and Richard Asbury, in whose home the Holy Ghost fell on April 9th, 1906.



The Asbury home at 216 North Bonnie Brae Street. The porch served as a pulpit as crowds gathered after the initial outpouring.

MAKE THAT CHANGE!

USE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST S U N D AY SCHOOL & Y. P. W.W. LITERATURE.

"WHO IS LEFT AMONG YOU THAT SAW THIS HOUSE IN HER FIRST GLORY?

And how do you see it now? Is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

"Yet now be strong" saith the Lord, "Be strong all ye people of the land, saith the Lord and work; For I am with you", saith the Lord;

According to the word that I convenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, So my spirit remaineth among you: Fear ye not.

The Glory of this Latter house shall be greater than the former, saith the Lord of Hosts: And in this place will I give Peace, saith the Lord of Hosts.



Sister Willella Asbury in her home at the same piano where Sister Jennie Moore sang and played in the Spirit during the first outpouring.



The Azusa Street Mission where the Holy Ghost fell in 1906, beginning the modern day Pentecostal revival. This photograph was taken in 1928 before the building was torn down.



Some of the first persons to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost at the Azusa Street Mission. (Standing left to right) unidentified; Brother Evans; Jennie Moore, Glenn Cook; Sister Crawford; unidentified; Sis. Prince. (Seated, left to right) Sister Evans; Hiram Smith, Joseph W. Seymour; Clara Lum; and the girl is the daughter of Sister Crawford. Hiram Smith helped in business matters at the Mission, and Sister Clara Lum served as co-editor of the Azusa Magazine.

ELDER J. DICKENS PASTOR OF THE HOUSE OF PRAYER CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

960 16th St. Oakland, Calif. 94607 Ph. 834-8410

THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM GOD ... TO THE CHURCH

Holy Greetings in Jesus Name.

In the month of September 1974, the Lord told me to go on a thirty day fast. I began October 1st, 1974 eating mostly one meal a day for 13 months as of Nov. 1st. 1975. During this time the Lord told me to repent. I was talking about folks and judging them, not having a heaven nor hell to put them in. I found myself like the angel of the Church at Ephesus, (Rev. 2:1-7). I had left my first love. The Lord told me to stop talking about people and talk to them and love them and pray for them. I. am yet repenting, and I promised the Lord that I would never be the same again. Brethren, I have found the secret and it is real. The Lord awakened me on the morning of November 7th or 8th 1974, and I began to pray with tears running down my cheeks and I heard the Spirit, "DESTRUCTION! —— DESTRUCTION! PESTILENCE! ---FAMINE!---EARTHQUAKES!, in this land of ours, America. He also told me to tell the Church to repent and turn to God, and pray 24 hours a day.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 reads, "If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locust to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among my people; If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. The Lord told me the Churches purpose and business is SOUL WINNING. For the Son of Man is come to seek and save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10). He told me to preach his second coming more and tell YOU, he is coming soon.

EVEN SO COME LORD JESUS

Elder J. Dickens

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

Greetings to all Saints and friends everywhere. We the members of District No. One, are enjoying Jesus in the beauty of Holiness We closed our District meeting which was very successful, both spiritually and financially. DISTRICT THEME: "STRIVE."

We, who attended this meeting are witnesses that this district meeting was a spiritual feast, each night the Lord was in His Holy Temple blessing and anointing His Saints, we praise God from whom all blessings flow.

I am happy to report that nightly informative topics were discussed that was not only instructive, but inspirational as well. Pastors of the participating churches brought messages to the waiting congregation, and "as an eagle stirreth her nest," so did these messages stir our pure minds to "Strive" the more to be as One, their preaching was not in vain which was evidenced by the large number who crowded the altar. The burdened were lifted. Saints were revived and strengthened. Sinners were saved. Backsliders were reclaimed. Prayer was offered for the sick and shut in by the Ministers of healing, Elder W. W. Covington, Eld. M. Ritter, and Eld. J. Shannon, the sick was blessed in a miraculous way and many testified of being healed. God blessed mightily from the beginning to the end. We salute our district pastors.

I would like to mention here that the two official days were outstanding. On women's day our district Sister's Unity President, Sister Louise Kitchen, and her staff presented a program of great spiritual depth and quality, each auxiliary of the women's work was beautifully organized and did a splendid work in behalf of our District Missionary Sis. Berneice Wolfe.

On our district Supt. night Superintendent Sexton, delivered a soul stirring message, simply and directly but with power and the leading of the "Holy Ghost." The district gave their whole support in every way. This was certainly a high night, and we give thanks to God for His many blessings most of all for the Precious Gift of the "Holy Ghost."

I would like for you to know who the very fine pastors of Brooklyn District No. One are:

Eld. C. L. Sexton, Pastor of Mt. Sinai Cathedral, Bishop Frank Cook, Pastor of Holy Trinity, Eld. Richard Bratton, Pastor of Holy Tabernacle, Eld. W. W. Covington, Pastor of Faith Temple, Eld. W. Connely, Pastor of Mt. Sinai COGIC No. 2. Eld. Joseph Stiff, Pastor of Bethel COGIC, Eld. Wern, Pastor of Gospel Temple COGIC, Eld. Barlow, Pastor of High-Way And-Hedges COGIC, Elder Robinson, Pastor of Zion Temple COGIC, Elder Tobe, Pastor of Glorious Temple COGIC, Attorney Butler, Pastor of Goodwill COGIC, Eld. Wright, Pastor of Proverb COGIC, Eld. A. Baker, Pastor Key Stone COGIC, and Eld. Heigler, Pastor of Heigler Temple COGIC. When you are in the city of Brooklyn, New York your stay will not be complete unless you visit one of the above named churches where no stranger is never made to feel strange.

We are praying that the planned activities of the Women's work in the near future will be a spiritual success, as our District Missionary, Sis. Berneice Wolfe, and her staff lead us in a week of services, which shall be convening at the Mt. Sinai COGIC NO. 2, 611 New Lot Ave. Brooklyn, New York Elder W. Connely, Pastor. May God bless each of you, and grant unto you "Good Health and Prosperity". Stay with God for we believe that Christ is soon to come."

Eld. C. Sexton, Superintendent District No. One
Sis. B. Wolfe, Supervisor Women's Work
Missionary Cecelia James, District Reporter

WORLD PENTECOSTAL CONVOCATION

The principal speaker of the evening, Radio Minister and Pastor of Mt. Airy COGIC delivered the message, his text coming from Mark 4:35-41. What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him? Jesus is the life giver, the life controller. Only in Him is there life.

In life there are areas of trial, of success and of vision; of despair and adversity; and the in-between area. The valleys between the mountains. In order to live in this life, we must learn to live in every one of these areas. In order to do so, we must first seek the life giver-controller. Then we can only succeed. We can only go up.

Sis. Esther Grainger, Reporter

SEEK HIM

There is a moon so bright, so white. There is a moon so far; The sun which sets in the west, is not the Son for whom we wait. Each new day brings both joy and pain, but the gift of hope and love unfeigned takes us over the rocky road.

We seek a home not made by man, with peace for you and me. Every eye shall see him, every knee shall bow. Though even now He calls us His friends.

We seek Him through tears of pain and misery. He calls to us to leave behind the world so rough and raw. The journey through life is filled with cracks and pits; with broken promises and pieces of ships, which never reach the shore.

But, children He calls us, just seek my face, and I will lead you home.

Esther Grainger

TOLEDO, OHIO

"GOD CALLED ME".....DO YOU KNOW YOUR PLACE IN THE LORD".....

Holy Greetings to you all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We the St. James Holiness Church of God in Christ, 801 Vance St., where the beloved shepherd is the Bishop William James bid you this holy greeting.

Truly this year has been the year of uncovering of Spiritual gifts in our local church. Our title is, "God called Me", for this month's report. I now ask you in a sub title form, "Do you know your place in the Lord"?...If not I say as one of our newest ministers of the gospel expounded in his first sermon, "The time is now", by Min. Hogan. The Lord is soon to come and we (Saints) must tell it like it is. This brings to mind Elder L. Blackwell from Canton, Ohio; as He was here in revival for "Progressive", our district. He preached the gospel and exclaimed it as life: It is God's word.

We the saints, an heir of royalty in the Kingdom of Heaven must love, tell and most of all live the Gospel. Like Min. C. Smith said, "Get up and get on the ball", for in the word of God we have a hiding place.

This brings me to the last sermon that was preached by our beloved shepherd. Before this report was written. We have a hiding place in the word of God, we need not make excuses for our behavior, for if we be honest with ourselves and most of all with God, he will be honest with us and meet our needs. As Bishop exclaimed, "Stop making excuses"...for excuses only proves one's guilt. The Holy Ghost does not need a witness, it bares its' own prophet.

We were blessed to have Mr. Grand Keer and wife, formely the Galloping Gourmet, to be in our midst to tell of how God can fix up broken marriages and save the unsaved in the family. This couple is a living prophet of God's words threw his holy prophet Paul, for he said in I Cor. 7:10-16, for we need not to be letting this evil trick of divorce slip over here in holiness, making souls commit adultery.

God's word stands true and His people are true to it. Holy people don't "SHUCK—IN—JIVE" with the Lord. (Trying to see how much wrong one can do, and get away with it). Here at St. James, God is calling young and old alike, male and female are answering His call. Our beloved shepherd is yet preaching true, pure holiness and he is concerned with our souls. His messages bring one in mind of, "Reach UP for God, Reach IN for cleansing of ones soul, then reach OUT by all means, let your life of salvation shine so bright", that you win some soul, out of this sin sick darken world; to our Lord Jesus Christ Light and Life.

We love you all and if by some chance we never see you in this life...by all means, we have great hopes of meeting you in rapture.

All in the beauty and love of God in Christ; St. James Holiness Church of God in Christ- Toledo, Ohio

Bishop William James, Pastor

Sister Kathy M. Butler, Reporter

A FEELING

I am in a very unpleasant state
It seems that trouble plagues me this date.
It would seem that certain moments bring tears.
It seems that this time brings awesome fears.

When it seems that all hope is gone,
When it appears the enemy has won,
When yesterday looks better than tomorrow,
And the present times consist only of sorrow,

There can be a moment of hope in the air.
There is a person who does care.
There can be someone who dries up tears
And sooths one's awesome fears.

If mother misery is constantly churning;
If the flame of problems is daily burning?
If the river of life's fears is steadily flowing;
And the warning horn of trouble is daily blowing;

There is a state of hope in these times.
There is a place of rest for the minds.
There is a tranquil period of bliss for you.
The only requirement is that you must be true.

Put your trust in a giant of a man
He will do for you whatever he can.
Jesus Christ is His name.
He will take your trouble and make them tame.

You need not look back or around,
For with Him you're on solid ground.
You should purchase His special stock.
By this you'd own a piece of the solid rock.

That rock is Jesus Christ our Lord.
The one who brings peace from discord.
Why not purchase your fair share,
For this man, for you, really cares.

Oh, if you would just taste and see
How good Jesus Christ can be.
If you just recognize this special man,
He'll do for you whatever he can.

He takes hell and makes it heaven.
He goes beyond six and makes it to seven.
He will end a horrible story
And make your life share in His Glory.

WEST DUMAS CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

The history of West Dumas Church is indeed a remarkable one. Under the guidance of God, through the leadership of Dr. A. L. Hunt the church has grown from fourteen (14) members to an enrollment of over 500 in Sunday School.

We have moved from a small, delapidated frame building to a beautiful and spacious church which was dedicated March, 1976, which has central heating and air, cushioned pews, and a seating capacity of 550, and is mortgage free.

We are presently using the old church building for the educational wing. Plans are already underway to construct a new educational wing.

Since the dedication of our new church many souls have been added to the church.

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BISHOP'S ANDERSON AND OWENS FILLS TWO NEW VACANCIES ON GENERAL BOARD

Board were Bishop J. O. Patterson of Memphis, Tenn. (1,238 votes), Bishop F. D. Washington of Brooklyn, N.Y. (1,194 votes), Bishop O. M. Kelly of N.Y. (1,193 votes), Bishop J. A. Blake of San Diego, Calif. (1,192 votes), Bishop J. S. Bailey of Detroit, Mich. (1,121 votes), Bishop L. H. Ford of Chicago, Ill. (1,053 votes), Bishop J. W. White of Louisiana (1,009 votes), Bishop C. L. Anderson of Detroit, Mich. (1,000 votes), Bishop Jacob Cohen of Miami, Florida (967 votes), Bishop J. D. Husband of Atlanta, Ga. (930 votes).

Bishop J. O. Patterson unanimously elected Presiding Bishop of the Church of God In Christ.

The other 5 Bishops that were nominated for General Board were Bishop Woodard, Bishop Martin, Bishop Davis, Bishop Cortney and Bishop Blackshear.

Bishop C. D. Owens is a native of Alabama; his ministry began as a young lad. Most of his evangelical experience was learned on the field as a national evangelist. He very soon became known throughout the Church of God In Christ as one of the most gifted orators and effective preachers of this day. He served for years in Memphis as Master of Ceremonies of the Radio Broadcast during the National Convocation. He also worked close with Bishop Page for a while in the National Evangelist Department. His most outstanding positions held was the President of the International Youth Congress. He successfully lead this department until 1972. He now serves as one of the Bishops of the State of New Jersey.

Bishop Leroy Anderson of Buffalo, New York is formerly a native of Texas. He to began preaching at a very early age. Some of his most important experience and knowledge in the ministry came while serving as administrative Assistant to Bishop W. G. Shipman. He has maintained a long and close relationship with many of the leading executives of the General Church. He presently serves as Jurisdictional Bishop of Western, New York.

REACHING THE PEOPLE

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prince of the power of the air, it was imperative and no small matter that Christ's disciples would awaken him, upon facing this moment of terror and fear. Doubtless enough, being taken by surprise by the vicious winds, they realized that this truly was too much of a task for them, and they remembered that there was one with them that could handle the job. Immediately they awakened Jesus saying, "Master, Master, we perish," for their very lives were in jeopardy. Though Christ rebuked them for their inordinate fear, yet he used his power and authority and turned the storm into a calm.

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BISHOP O. M. KELLY APPOINTED FIRST ASSISTANT PRESIDING BISHOP

the late Elder Lonnie White pastored. My son Elder Jacob stukes, is assisting me there.

Also, God gave me the opportunity to build the Chapel in Lexington, Miss. for our students there. So as America Celebrates her 200th birthday, I am glad to celebrate almost 60 years in God's vineyard.

Our state has harmony. I have a wonderful cabinet with which to work. We have one of the finest supervisors, we work together in love. I have two very fine capable assistants, Bishop F. D. Washington, and Dr. Ithiel Clemmons, 21 fine District Superintendents, 21 District Missionaries, State Officials, male and female.

This year the Lord blessed me to write my autobiography and put it in book form in the hope that some young person may take courage and know that you can make it. I did not have the opportunity to attend college. Never had much formal training, but God was, and is good to me. My favorite expression is, "having there obtained help of God, I continue unto this day". The book is called. "The Profile of a churchman."

Yours for lost Souls,

The Whole Truth, Editor and Staff would like to salute the Presiding Bishop in his fine choice of a First Assistant.

Revelations 3:19. Fear not the rebuke of the Lord and accept his chastening, for He has said in His holy word, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten."

It is Christ's business to calm a storm; it is Christ's prerogative to rebuke; yet it remains our privilege to call upon Him when faced with matters too great for us to handle. When situations confront us that are beyond the scope of our faith, and our souls are in jeopardy, we can say, Master, Master, we perish, and well know that the storm will come to nought. Christ can and will control every contrary wind; he can subdue every loose spirit if he is called upon in sincerity and ferency.

"Where is your faith?" was the question asked. "Have I been so long with you and yet you have no faith in yourselves? What might the case be had I not been with you? Where is your faith? Why do you allow fear to grip your hearts in the midst of trouble?" While the disciples had no faith in themselves, yet they did have faith in Christ Jesus, for certainly they must have expected him to do something for them when they awakened Him.

Though he may rebuke you for

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"TO BE USED OF GOD"

seeking splendor and grandeur. Consequently, when such people meet with discouragement they are overwhelmed. The installment of an uncalled, unanointed preacher is chaotic. Such persons are blind and Jesus has warned that "...and if the blind lead the blind both shall fall into the ditch" Matthew 15:14. Also. when we think of the congregation, "where there is no vision the people perish." All of this anguish is caused because someone didn't work out (his) own soul salvation with fear and trembling." The secret to pleasing God is to do the very best we can on the job to which God has given us. As the late International Supervisor Mother Bailey used to say "When you've done your best the angels in heaven can't do any better."

Pray for the Youth of the Church of God in Christ as we remember "Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore seek wisdom but in all thy getting get an understanding" Proverbs 4:7

not having faith, yet he will not fail you when you call Him. When the gusty winds of life are blowing, and the dark clouds of disappointment hover over you, when you lose your direction and your footsteps become shaky, and your spiritual eyesight is dimming, and your gospel ship is filled with the waters of life's heartaches, filled with waters of life's burdens, and the ship is sinking and completely out of control, the solution is to call upon the one that is able to calm, yes even your very spirit. Say, "Master, Master, I perish. HELP ME." Do as David did when he realized that all decisions and all power were out of his hands. He became humble in his heart and said:

Psalm 61:1, 2. "Hear my cry, Oh God. Attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto Thee, when my heart is overwhelmed. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Realizing that there is one higher, it within itself a great achievement. Had not the disciples first realized that Christ was higher than they, they would have never been saved from the storm. Had they not considered the scope of His power, they would have never been saved from the storm. Had they not considered the scope of His power, they would have been lost at sea. Had they not realized His magnitude and strength, they well would have never been rescued. But because they looked upon him as being a rock higher than they, this brought them to safety. Upon being awakened, Christ was so willing, so ready, and so prepared to act upon their request for help, that it frightened the disciples. His alertness, his spontaneous reaction took them so by surprise, until they became so afraid they began saying one to another, what manner of man is this that he commandeth even the winds and the waters and they obey him? And even to this day, the winds and the waters obey Him, Jesus Christ.

READ YOUR BIBLE, WORSHIP GOD

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FOUR NATIONAL OFFICIALS PASS IN LAST 12 MONTHS

others. Whatever knowledge she acquired she did not hesitate to pass it on. God took note of

every tear and every sigh, every pain and every cry, during her illness, therefore on Friday afternoon, June 18, 1976 at approximately 2:30 p. m., she exchanged her cross for a crown.

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Bishop Crouch was a successful Pastor at the Emmanuel Church of God in Christ, in Los Angeles, California, for more than forty years. He was a leader with extraordinary foresight, which contributed to him being elected "Bishop" of California 1940 Under the influence of this Servant of the Lord, California's Diocese grew from a tiny acorn to a giant oak. His Ministry was effective because he wait-daily before the Altar of God in prayer. He began a Prayer service at Crouch State Temple (named for him) to help meet the growing Spiritual needs of the people. In the National Convocation, annually, Bishop Crouch led God's people in Prayer and the Taught Word.

He accomplished much in his sixty-five years of the Ministry. He held many awards and Honors. His offices and achievements include:

.Pioneer in Radio Ministry
.President of International Home and Foreign Mission Board (Building homes, schools and churches in places such as Africa and Haiti)
.Second Assistant Bishop of Church of God in Christ 1968-1972
.First Assistant Bishop of Church of God in Christ 1972-1976
.Member of the Executive Board
.Member of the Advisory Board-World Pentecostal Conference
.Purchased Crouch State Temple, 2300 South Central Avenue, Los Angeles, California 1962
.Maintained a Mission Home in Fontana, California for Missionaries and Workers, Rent Free.
.President of Emmanuel Ontario Gardens, a 252 unit apartment complex with a Chapel for senior citizens in Ontario, California
.Chancellor of Charles Harrison Mason Bible College, in Los Angeles, California.

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SEED THOUGHTS FOR FUTURE PASTORS AND ELDERS

Joshua, Hur and Aaron were not seeking to be stars, or trying to project themselves above their leader, Moses. They defeated the enemies of the Lord because they worked together in harmony with the leader of God's people.

There is a true saying that states, that, "Where there is unity, there is strength" Jesus said "A House divided against itself cannot stand." Matt. 12:25b.

Abiram, Korah, and Dathan had different ideas they tried to exalt themselves, by denouncing and usurping the authority of Moses. The earth opened up and swallowed them and their families. Num. 16:1.

Absalome the handsome son of David certainly had influence with the people of Israel, but ne used it for the wrong cause. He tried to make disciples for himself, in the end of his life he was left temporarily dangling by his beautiful hair with darts through his heart, we can not help but enter into the sorrow of King David as he stood with hot brimy tears streaming down his cheeks exclaiming! Oh! Absalom on my son, Absalom my son, would God I had died for thee. II Sam. 18:33.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST PUBLISHING HOUSE
P. O. Box 2017 † 272 South Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38101

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID at Memphis, Tenn.